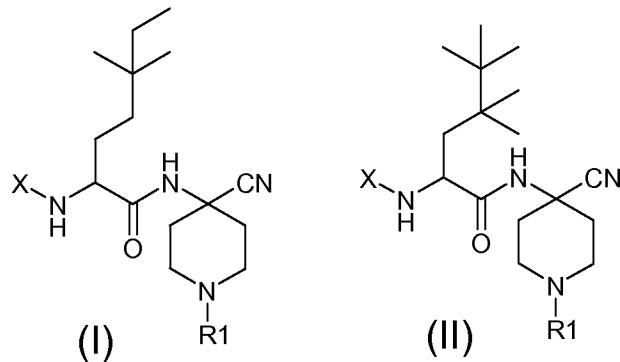
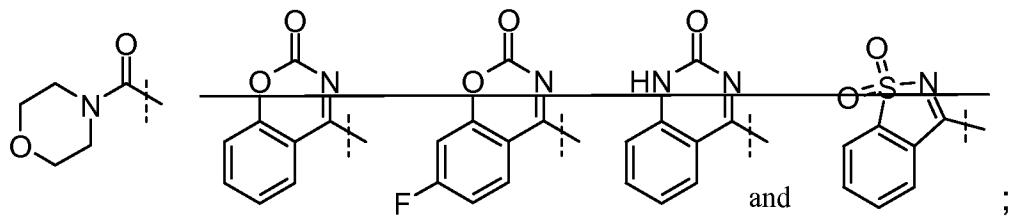


Current Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of the formula (I) or (II) :



wherein X in each case is chosen from



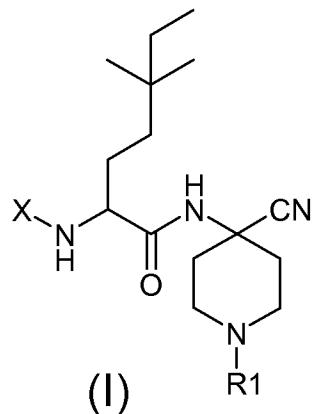
R1 is chosen from hydrogen or alkyl branched or straight chain alkyl, each carbon atom in the chain is optionally replaced with one to three heteroatoms chosen from O, S, and N-R2 wherein R2 is hydrogen or alkyl;

and wherein R1 is optionally further substituted by one or more alkoxy, amine, halogen, carbocycle, heteroaryl or heterocycle;

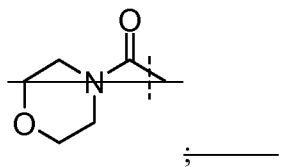
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compound according to claim 1 wherein:

in the formula (I)



X is chosen from —



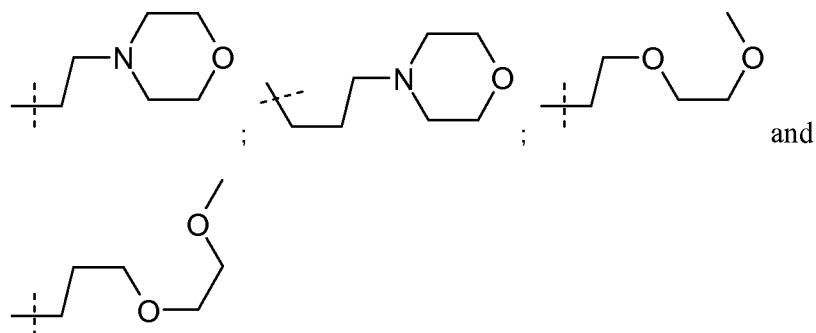
R1 is chosen from hydrogen or C1-10 alkyl branched or straight chain C1-10 alkyl, each carbon atom in the chain is optionally replaced with one to three heteroatoms chosen from O, S, and N-R2 wherein R2 is hydrogen or C1-5 alkyl;

and wherein R1 is optionally further substituted by one or more C1-5 alkoxy, amine, heterocycle or halogen.

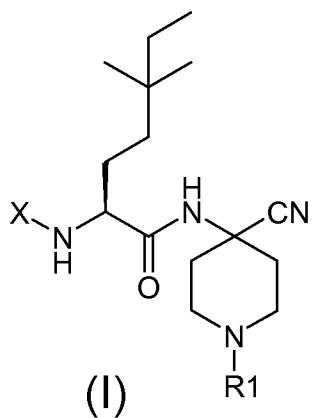
Claim 3 (original): The compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein of R1 is C1-5 alkyl.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The compound according to any of claims 1, 2 or 3 wherein of R1 is C1-3 alkyl, preferably methyl.

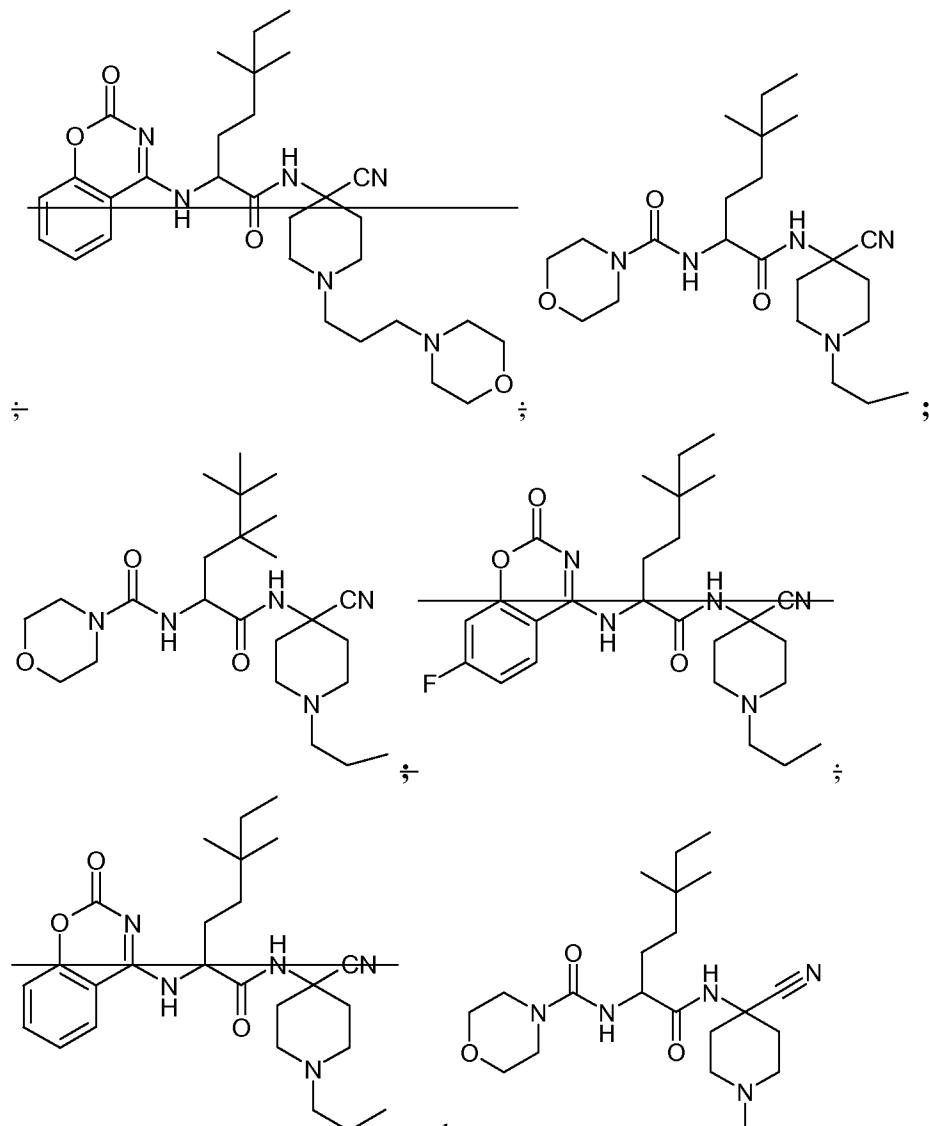
Claim 5 (original): The compound according to claims 1 or 2 wherein R1 is chosen from:



Claim 6 (original): The compound according to any of claims 1-5 wherein the compound of the formula (I) is the (S) enantiomer which possesses a natural amino acid configuration at the indicated chiral carbon below

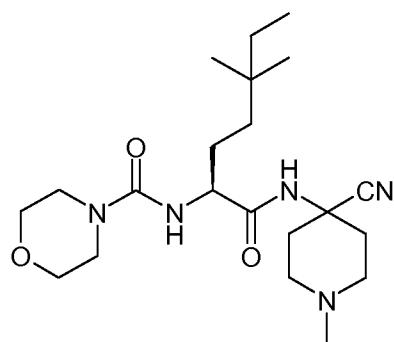


Claim 7 (currently amended): A compound chosen from



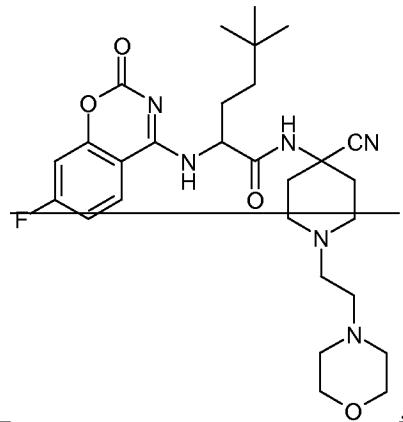
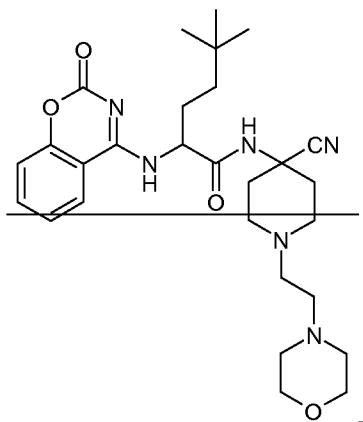
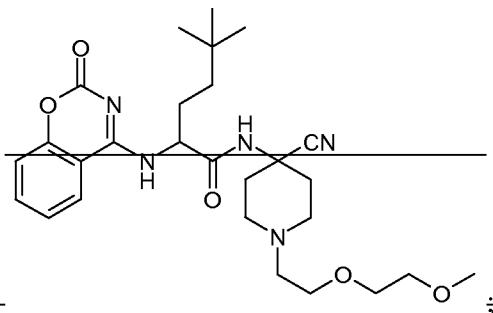
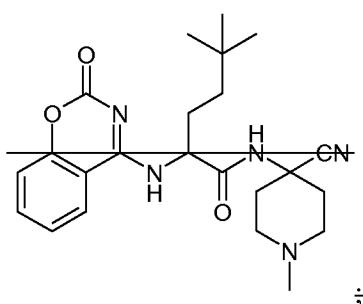
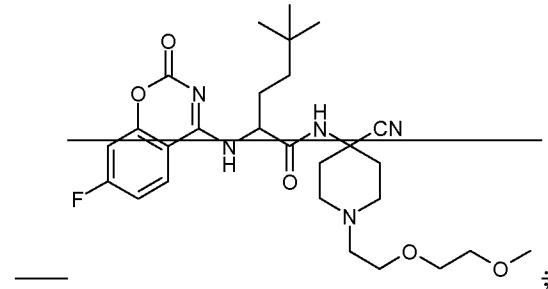
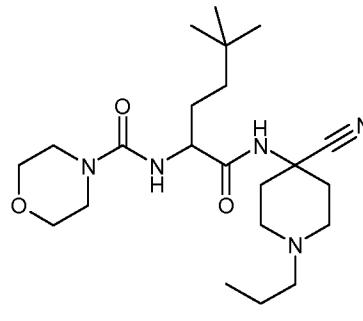
or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof wherein the compound is:



wherein the indicated chiral carbon is the (S) enantiomer which possesses a natural amino acid configuration.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A compound wherein the compound is chosen from:



and

or the pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

Claim 10 (withdrawn - currently amended): A method of treating a disease or condition chosen from:

rheumatoid arthritis, ~~systemic lupus erythematosus, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, Guillain Barre syndrome, psoriasis, Grave's disease, myasthenia gravis, scleroderma, glomerulonephritis, dermatitis including contact and atopic dermatitis, insulin dependent diabetes mellitus, endometriosis, asthma, Alzheimer's disease~~ and atherosclerosis; comprising administering to a patient a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.